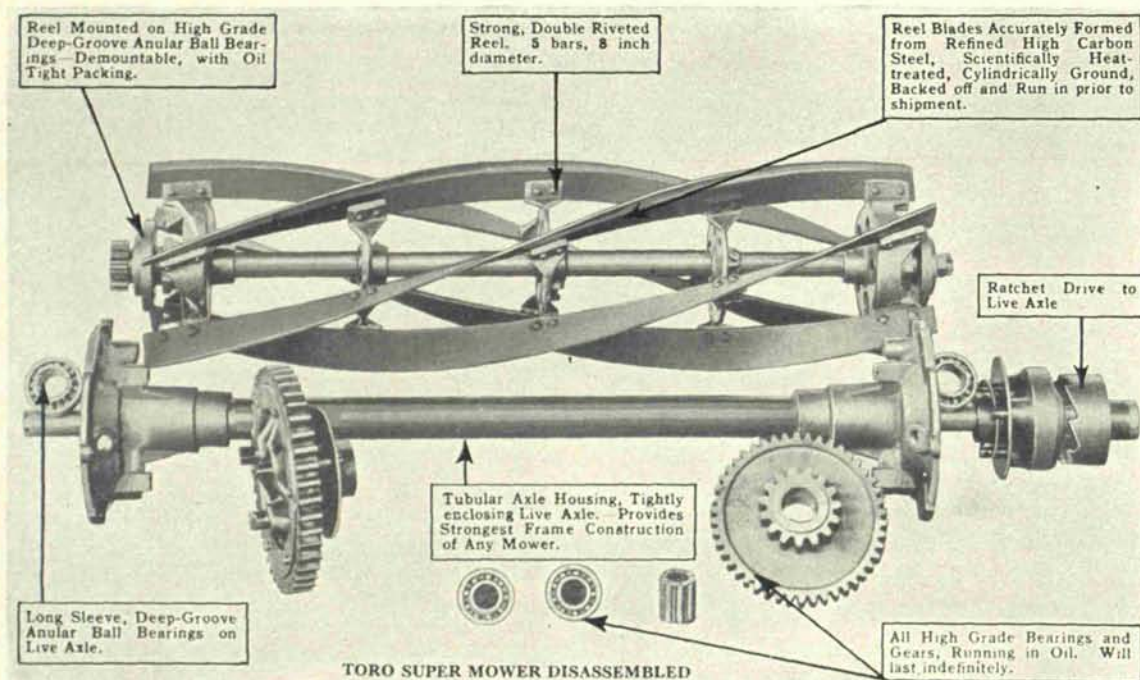


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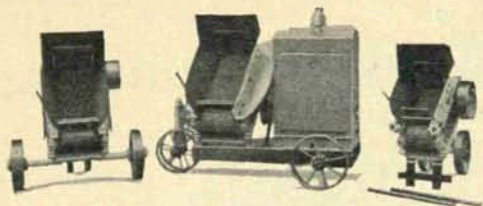
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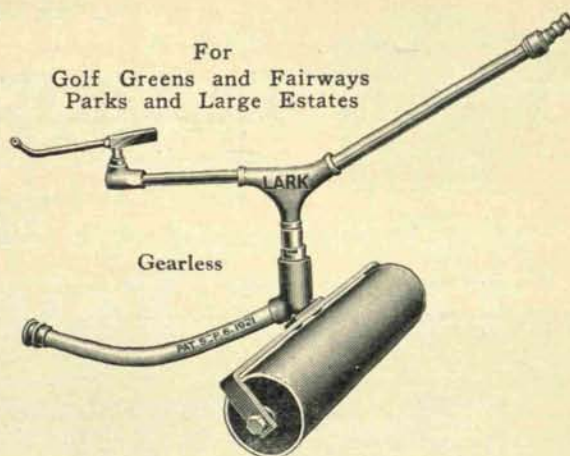
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The March Convention number of the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER will be the biggest and most widely circulated trade paper ever published in the golf maintenance field. It comes off the press just as the Golf Show and National Greenkeepers' Convention opens at Detroit, February 21, and will be the official publication of the convention.

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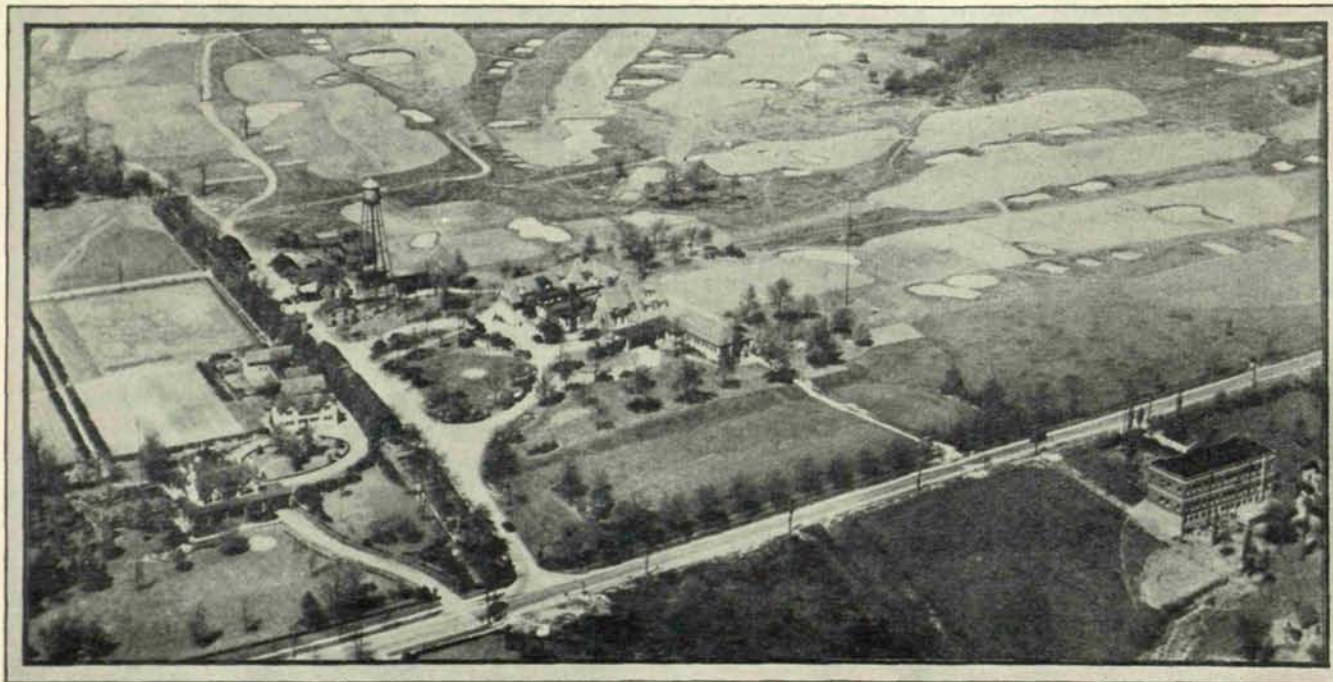
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# Oakmont's Greens Kept in Championship Condition with Semesan



Airplane view of course of Oakmont Country Club, Oakmont, Pa., where the American Open Championship was played in 1927, and the National Amateur Championships in 1919 and 1925. P. & A. Photo

THE visiting players of the Ryder Cup Team called the greens of the beautiful Oakmont Country Club the finest in this country. Emil Loeffler, Jr., ascribes this fine condition in part to the use of Semesan.

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# The NATIONAL GREENKEEPER

*Official Organ of The National Association of Greenkeepers of America*

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VOLUME II.

No. 1

## *Peace and Prosperity for 1928*

By JOHN MORLEY

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE, in his annual message to Congress, stated that this country is now in a period of peace and prosperity. With this in mind I cannot help thinking, as I review the work of our association in the past year and the progress we have made, that the future is exceedingly bright for the greenkeepers of America.

Golf is a game for everybody, and the assured prosperity confronting this nation means more and better golf courses, and decidedly greater opportunities for those who have the responsibilities for their care and upkeep.

Present conditions prove the foresight of those who organized the National Association of Greenkeepers of America. A year ago we could not have coped with the situation, but now with our organization working smoothly and reaching into every section of the North American continent, we are able to keep step with the growth and progress of golf, no matter what tremendous strides it may take in the next twelve months.

Our greatest ally and staunchest aid is the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER. Its effective publicity and fearless editorial policy has enabled us to

prove to everybody interested in golf that greenkeeping is a profession requiring men of skill, knowledge and integrity.

We owe a debt of gratitude to those who have produced the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER for us, and who have steadily adhered to the high ideals and straightforward purposes of our organization. We owe a debt of gratitude also to those who have contributed such splendid and helpful articles to our magazine, and who have been so generous in their efforts to make it a success. They have been loyal supporters of our cause, and have left nothing undone to help greenkeepers individually and collectively, to increase their knowledge and better their condition.

I wish to thank the members for their hearty support, and to express my deep appreciation of the splendid work our officers and committee members have done.

For the New Year I can see nothing but prosperity and success ahead of us. We have proved our right to existence, and the recognition the association is receiving from golf club officials should be the incentive to spur us on to greater efforts this coming year.



JOHN MORLEY  
*President National Association of  
Greenkeepers of America*



# Bermuda in Oklahoma

By G. H. CONGER, *Greenkeeper*  
Dornick Hills Country Club, Ardmore, Oklahoma

**I**N the spring of 1925 I started work on Dornick Hills under my father, J. Frank Conger, as tractor and truck operator, and all round handy-man. That summer I did most everything to be done on a golf course including (trying) to play golf. In October father went to Enid, Oklahoma, to take charge of the Enid Country Club. I finally got up enough nerve to ask for the job of greenkeeper, and to my surprise got it.

I still have the same Green chairman I started under, Mr. O. W. Devery. I wish to say I owe a large part of what I have accomplished to him. I do not know many Green committee chairmen, but I really believe I have one of the best in the country. If any two men need to co-operate it is surely the Green committee chairman and the greenkeeper.

We are fortunate in having one of the prettiest and sportiest courses in the southwest, but as we have to

twenty per cent black soil. We have no loam, as most of our course is black gumbo.

We opened the greens the second of April, and I was very gratified to have several of the members say they had a perfect putting surface. We topdressed about every thirty days during the season, using shovels to spread the dressing as it is generally too damp to go through the distributor, and beside with undulating greens some spots need more than others.

I use a 36" stiff bristle push broom and a light cocoa mat to brush it in, then run an old mower over it to pick up the small gravel that goes through the screen, watering it by hand so as not to drift the topdressing.

## Dragging With Steel Mat Keeps Grass Upright

We cut our greens every day using grass catchers dragging crosswise the cutting with a steel doormat, cutting the greens in four or more different directions. I find the steel mat helps a great deal as Bermuda grass is inclined to lie down and get jumpy on rolling greens. I find you have to keep Bermuda growing and cut it often or it will get stubby.

After our first topdressing in the spring we use about 60 per cent sand, 20 per cent manure and 20 per cent soil. I think that is a little too much manure as we had quite a few worms, but we have to economize on sand.

We have never used anything for worms, but intend to try something next spring.

We use some Ammo-Phos and Ammonium Sulphate about four times per year and it surely puts new pep into the greens.

I notice a great many greenkeepers use six greens—  
(Continued on page 27)



*Number eighteen at Dornick Hills, taken from clubhouse*

work under a small greens budget you can imagine about what we are up against with an 18-hole course that requires a great deal of hand work and seven to eight months' growing season.

About the 20th of December, 1926, we closed our greens and made temporary greens for the first time. There was some complaint as we have year around golf here.

## Starting Bermuda Along in the Spring

The 15th of March, just as the grass began to grow we weeded and mowed the greens as closely as possible. Practically skinned the greens and topdressed heavily with about two yards compost per green, forty per cent sand, forty per cent well rotted feed pen manure and



*Number five at Dornick Hills, dogleg Par four, showing Number six tee at left.*



# Golf Grasses

By LYMAN CARRIER

*Editor's Note:—Mr. Carrier was for many years connected with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, as agronomist in pasture and forage crop investigations. His work with the U. S. G. A. Green Section established the value of vegetative creeping bent for putting greens.*

WHILE this subject has been quite thoroughly covered in the past few years in this and other publications, it is one which, so long as we stick to known facts, can not be over-discussed. The species of grasses which have been studied and classified by botanists number well up in the thousands. Then there are countless strains and varieties among the different species. But when we come to the sorts which make really fine turf suitable for golf course purposes or nice lawns in any particular locality, they may be counted on the fingers of one hand. As it is necessary to start somewhere, we will take up the fescues in this issue.

## Fescues

The fescue group of grasses contains quite a large number of species, only a few of which have any economic importance. They range in texture from the finest of all grasses to coarse broad-bladed, farm sorts used for hay. The fescues which are of interest to golfers can be identified without much trouble by their narrow, thick leaves which resemble stiff, coarse hair.

## Red Fescue

The most important of this group from a fine turf standpoint is red fescue. It is often called Chewings fescue and various other names depending on where the seed comes from. The seed of red fescue is imported into this country from Central Europe, New Zealand, and Australia. There is very little if any difference in the quality of turf produced by the seed from these different sources. Fescue seed loses its vitality rapidly after it is a year old and it is generally considered that the European grown seed has a better germination on account of the shorter ocean trip to get it here.

The true red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) is a creeping grass spreading by stolons into a close fine mat. It is evidently this creeping strain that grows on many of the older courses of Scotland which has made red fescue famous. I have occasionally found the true creeping red fescue on golf courses in this country but the matting habit develops so long after seeding that I have never been able to trace the source of the seed used in these cases. The Bob-O-Link Course north of Chicago has large areas of true creeping red fescue on its fairways and it is wonderful turf. Many thousands of dollars have been wasted in a vain endeavor to duplicate these nice patches of turf as practically all of the seed marketed in this country is of the non-creeping sort. From all

accounts creeping red fescue is quite common in Europe. It is likely, however, that it has lost its seeding habit. Many plants which have developed an ability to propagate themselves vegetatively by stolons, tubes or rootstalks give up the effort to produce seed. This is true of such plants as the strawberry,

Irish potato, sugar-cane, Bermuda grass except under favorable conditions, and many strains of creeping bent.

Almost invariably when one seeds red fescue he gets a lot of small circular tufts with numerous bare places among them, giving a foot-hold for weeds or a depression for a ball to roll into for a bad lie. It is sometimes pathetic to watch the efforts of some greenkeepers who learned their trade in the Old Country who are trying to produce matted turf of red fescue with the seed they have to work with in this country.

There is a peculiarity in the habit of growth of the non-creeping red fescue which renders it practically useless for putting green turf. The stems of the individual plants grow upright for a half to three fourths of an inch from the crown in the surface of the soil before the green leaves appear. In cutting down to the length demanded by golfers all of the green leaves are removed and a grass can not survive very long which does not have green leaves to manufacture the material needed for new growth. Often a perfect stand of seedling fescue vanishes after it has been cut a few times.

The only really good fescue putting greens which I have ever seen are on some of the courses around Seattle, Washington. Whether the soil there is especially adapted to the growing of fescue or the clubs were fortunate in obtaining extra good seed I am unable to say. On all of the other fescue greens which I have seen, the greenkeepers were constantly renewing the stand by reseeding. Most of the so-called fescue greens in New England are velvet bent.

Red fescue is often used in fairway mixtures but I have never been able to see any great advantage it has for that purpose. Unless some other turf forming grass like Kentucky bluegrass is sown with it to fill in the vacant places the turf is unsatisfactory from the player's point of view. If one goes to the trouble to produce a good turf of bluegrass, what good is the fescue?

## Red Fescue For Rough

There are places for red fescue on a golf course which  
(Continued on page 34)



Lyman Carrier



# *Have A Laugh With Me*

By L. M. LATTA, *Owner and Manager*  
Braeburn Country Club, Copley, Ohio

WITH the hope that you will forgive the frequent mention of "I" in this paper here goes for the slim story of a man who didn't know any better.

For nineteen years I had played golf—not good golf, but just the ordinary dub's game, and had a lot of fun out of it. Played not with any particular man or men but anyone out of two dozen whom I ran around with. They were all good fellows in every sense of the word—ready for any kind of a game or stake that might be suggested and as you can imagine none of us paid much attention to just what was done at any time of the year to keep the course and greens up. We simply took the thing for granted.

## **I'm Seized with a Good Idea**

Our course was as good but no better than many others we played on, and so long as the grass was cut and we could sometimes sink a remarkable putt, we didn't care. We laughed and joked and set off fire crackers behind each other and played the nineteenth hole for all it was good for. But a day was to come when all these joys were to be things of the past, when I was to be confronted with golf from the other side of the fence. That was when I was seized with the fool idea that there was a lot of money and fun to be had from establishing a public course and running it.

No sooner had the idea occurred to me than at it I went, and in September 1924 became possessed of one hundred and twenty-five acres of land that the farmer couldn't farm because it was too rough. To be sure it was only seven miles out of town and the road to it was fine, and the sun came up nice and bright each day, and there I stood and looked the landscape over.

## **Started Construction Before Lay-out**

I was lost in a dream when the fellow whom I had hired as foreman came up and said "Where do we start work?" Well, how did I know?

There stood the gang of ten men and the tractor snorting to go, and the only tools we had were the tractor, five shovels, two axes, two mattocks and five gallons of gasoline. Not to be bluffed, I looked around and seeing a swamp of tall grass and a few cockeyed trees in it, I gaily waved my hand and told them to clear it out. At it they went while I sneaked off to a shady tree and began to take stock of the thing.

That was the start, and while they were working at the swamp I spent days and days walking over the place and imagining just how the thing should be laid out. If I put a green there, where would the next tee be, etc.

But within thirty days the course began to take shape, and while I had the lay-out in my mind I hadn't done a thing toward the greens. Fortunately a fellow came along one day whom I knew had done work on a golf course and I hired him to help. He at once began on the greens and within a few weeks we had them ready for seed—but what kind of seed?

He told me I should sow Italian rye and redtop, so that was done, and in the spring when I hung out my sign there was some grass on some of the greens and the others were indicated by the flags without the aid of grass. I guess that of all the golf courses that were ever offered to the public, mine was the worst. But in spite of this, the players began coming and I began milling around and listening to first this fellow and then that one (I am now referring to greenkeepers), and making notes of the unfavorable (there were none favorable) comments on the course by the players until it began to dawn on me that there was a darn sight more to this thing of keeping a course in condition than I had ever imagined—and that the fellow who was able to do it was "some baby."

## **Sowed All Kinds of Seed**

So again I girded up my loins and consulted some seed men and sowed a lot of all kinds of seed both on the greens and fairways, began to lay in a supply of equipment, and the course commenced to look better and really some of the players mentioned it—quietly and in a low voice. I guess so no one would overhear them and think they were crazy.

This past season I have had some real help from a good greenkeeper and I am beginning to cheer up, but Lord, the time and money I've lost.

## **A Sense of Humor Helps**

Yet there have been many days when I've laughed, for I am learning that but few players know what they are talking about when they criticize.

And things are funny—when you have an undertaker drive in, take his clubs out of his hearse and shoot eighteen holes—and when a player hires a caddy at the regular rate to play with his baby while he plays golf, and, when a fellow with a clothes pressing outfit on a truck drives in and presses two suits of clothes for me and I gyp him and his partner into playing golf for his bill.

I have yet many problems to solve and I hope to get the answers to many of them when we have our first greenkeepers' golf tournament at Braeburn next spring.



# Selecting and Planting Shrubbery

By W. D. CHINERY, *Greenkeeper*  
York Downs Golf Club, Eglinton, Ontario, Canada

IN a preceding article on the planting and cultivation of shrubs which appeared in the December issue of the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, I mentioned the advisability of grouping or classifying such shrubs to serve two purposes. One of which I have dealt with in above mentioned article, and the other purpose which perhaps is the most important, is that of planting in the vicinity of the clubhouse.

## Do Not Crowd Your Plantings

When the problem of planting shrubs is in view there are several important points worth considering. One point is that shrubs are not a thing for today or tomorrow only, but to continue for an indefinite time, therefore it is advisable to avoid overcrowding. This will save time later on and probably some heart-burnings. One good plant is worth half a dozen scrubby ones. The space allowed between each shrub should be determined by soil conditions and form, or habit of such shrubs to be planted. As a guide I may say that the dwarf type may be allowed from two and a half to four feet, medium from three feet to six feet, and the tall and spreading

type five to eight feet apart. It may be worth while to draw my readers' attention to the diversity of form among nearly all shrubs, even of the same genus. Take *Lonicera Tatarica* (Bush Honeysuckle) for example. This shrub assumes an erect and somewhat globular form, while *Lonicera Morrowii* is spreading and irregular.

## Choose Suitable Locations for Each Variety

Another important point which should not be overlooked is when planting shrubs or climbing plants close up to a building, a clubhouse for instance, one should take notice of the color of the walls. From an artistic point of view what is more hurtful to the eye than to see a pink or red flower showing against a red brick wall, or on the other hand what is so inconspicuous as a mass of white flowers close to a white wall. To be able to blend the colors of flowers so that they harmonize is a great aid to successful gardening.

There is no doubt that there is a great difference in the space available for garden work at most golf clubs, so that one cannot lay down any hard and fast rule as to the formation of such gardens. The thing to do would be to take advantage of whatever scope offered. There may be objectionable views to shut out and on the other hand some fine view one would wish to keep open. It is advisable when planting shrubs to give the more showy or important varieties the most advantageous positions. One often sees such plants put in some obscure corner, or location wholly unsuited to their requirements, and a less valuable and more vigorous plant in a prominent place. The result is indifferent or poor growth, few flowers and little satisfaction.

The collection of shrubs named in this article is selected from some of the earliest and latest flowering varieties, giving a wide range of color and some of them producing bright colored foliage and berries in the late summer and autumn.

## Pruning Shrubs

This is a subject that requires much study and some years of practical experience before one can make himself proficient in this work, that is, looking at things from a general standpoint. There is an old adage which runs thus—"You can always cut out when you cannot put back." Therefore, unless one has some knowledge of pruning it is perhaps wise to let well enough alone. Anyone can cut off a straggling limb or branch, or cut



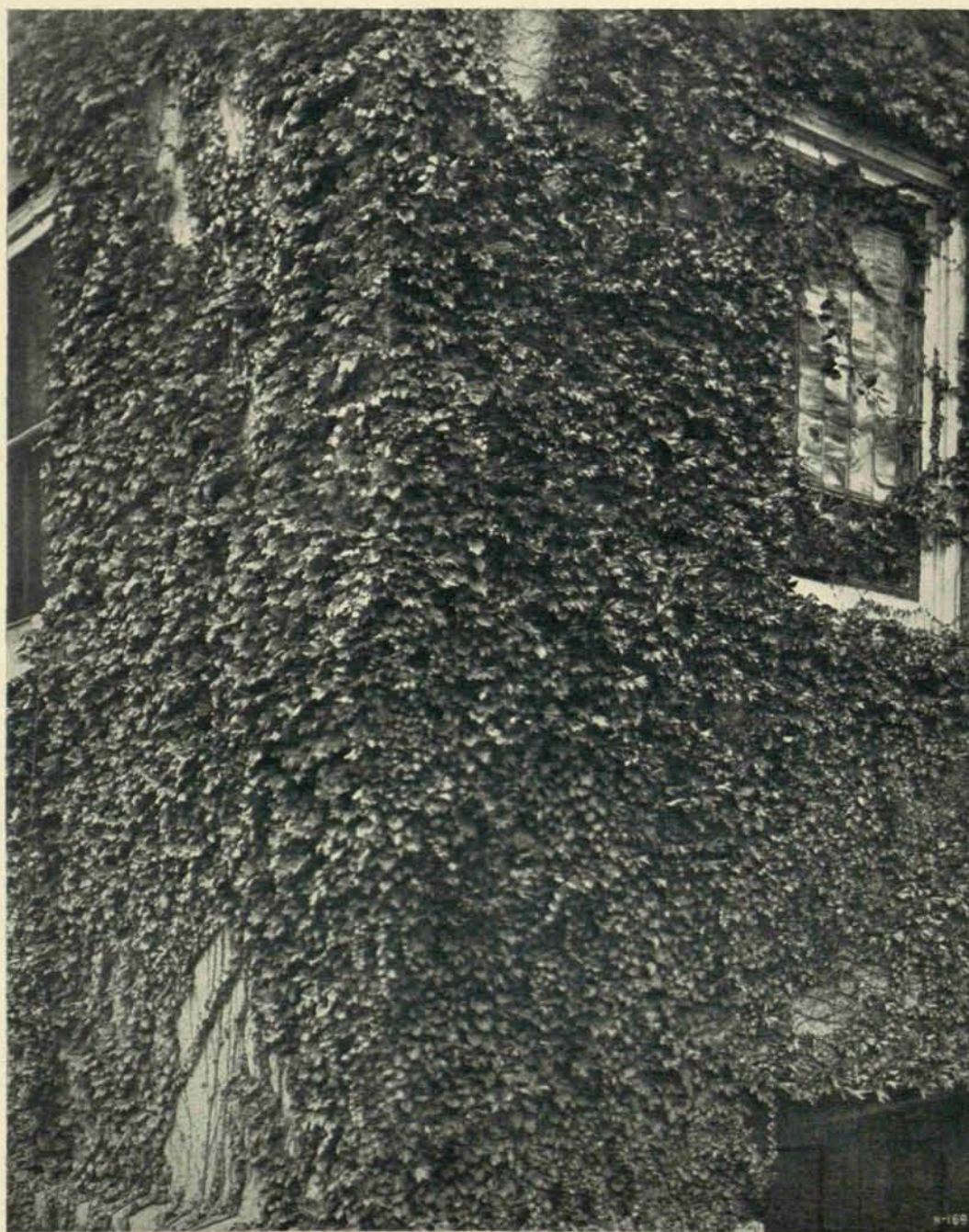
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